

B. FOOD ASSISTANCE STANDARDS

Purpose: This section includes the following information for food assistance:

- Income standards used to determine eligibility for food assistance;
- Which assistance units must meet the gross and net income tests and which do not; and
- Maximum monthly food assistance benefits.

Effective October 1, 2002

WAC 388-478-0060 What are the income limits and maximum benefit amounts for food assistance?

If your assistance unit (AU) meets all other eligibility requirements for food assistance, your AU must have income at or below the limits in columns B and C to get food assistance unless you meet one of the exceptions listed below. The maximum monthly food assistance benefit your AU could receive is listed in column D.

EFFECTIVE 10-1-02

Column A Number of eligible AU members	Column B Maximum Gross Monthly Income	Column C Maximum Net Monthly Income	Column D Maximum Allotment	Column E 165% of the Poverty Level
1	\$ 960	\$ 739	\$139	\$1,219
2	1,294	995	256	1,642
3	1,628	1,252	366	2,066
4	1,961	1,509	465	2,489
5	2,295	1,765	553	2,913
6	2,629	2,022	663	3,336
7	2,962	2,279	733	3,760
8	3,296	2,535	838	4,183
9	3,630	2,792	943	4,607
10	3,964	3,049	1,048	5,031
Each Additional Member	+ 334	+257	+105	+ 424

Exceptions:

- (1) If your AU is categorically eligible under WAC 388-414-0001, your AU does not have to meet the gross or net income standards in columns B and C. We do budget your AU's income to decide the amount of food assistance your AU will receive.
- (2) If your AU includes a member who is sixty years of age or older or has a disability, your income must be at or below the limit in column C only.
- (3) If you are sixty years of age or older and cannot buy and cook your own meals because of a permanent disability, we use column E to decide if you can be a separate AU.
- (4) If your AU has zero income, your benefits are the maximum allotment in column D based on the number of eligible members in your AU.

CLARIFYING INFORMATION

1. The federal government sets the income and resources standards. The income standards usually change each year and are effective October 1.
2. The gross income standard is 130% of the federal poverty level.
3. The net income standard is 100% of the federal poverty level.
4. These standards are based on the poverty level for the 48 contiguous states. It excludes Alaska and Hawaii because of the higher cost of living in those states.

WORKER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. If the AU's income is over the standards for their AU size, deny or terminate assistance. Remember to apply any appropriate exceptions allowed under food assistance rules.
2. See WAC 388-450-0245 in **INCOME** when an increase in income causes the AU to be ineligible for one month.

165 Percent Standard For Clients Who Are Both Elderly And Disabled

A client who is both elderly and disabled can't be in a separate AU if the other people who would normally be in the AU (not counting the person's spouse) have combined income over the 165% standard. The client's spouse must always be in the AU if they live with the client. See **ASSISTANCE UNITS** - Food Assistance Programs.